



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 16, 2006

I send greetings to those participating in International Education Week 2006, hosted by the Department of State and the Department of Education.

Education and literacy have the capacity to transform nations and yield peace by encouraging participation in the democratic process and enabling people to better care for themselves and their families. My Administration understands our responsibility to ensure that individuals have the educational opportunities they need to succeed, and we are working hard to improve the lives of men, women, and children in America and around the world through education. By teaching foreign languages, the National Security Language Initiative will help ensure that our troops, intelligence officers, and diplomats can continue to advance peace, and it will enable our personnel serving in the far reaches of the world to communicate in the languages of the people we are trying to help. Our Nation also continues to encourage and facilitate international student exchanges, which allow Americans to better understand other cultures and encourage students from around the world to see firsthand the true nature of the multicultural society we enjoy in America.

I appreciate the Departments of State and Education for organizing the seventh annual International Education Week, and I am grateful to all those who work to enhance educational excellence and international goodwill. Together, we can build stronger societies and a brighter future for people everywhere.

Laura and I send our best wishes.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "GWB", written in a cursive script.